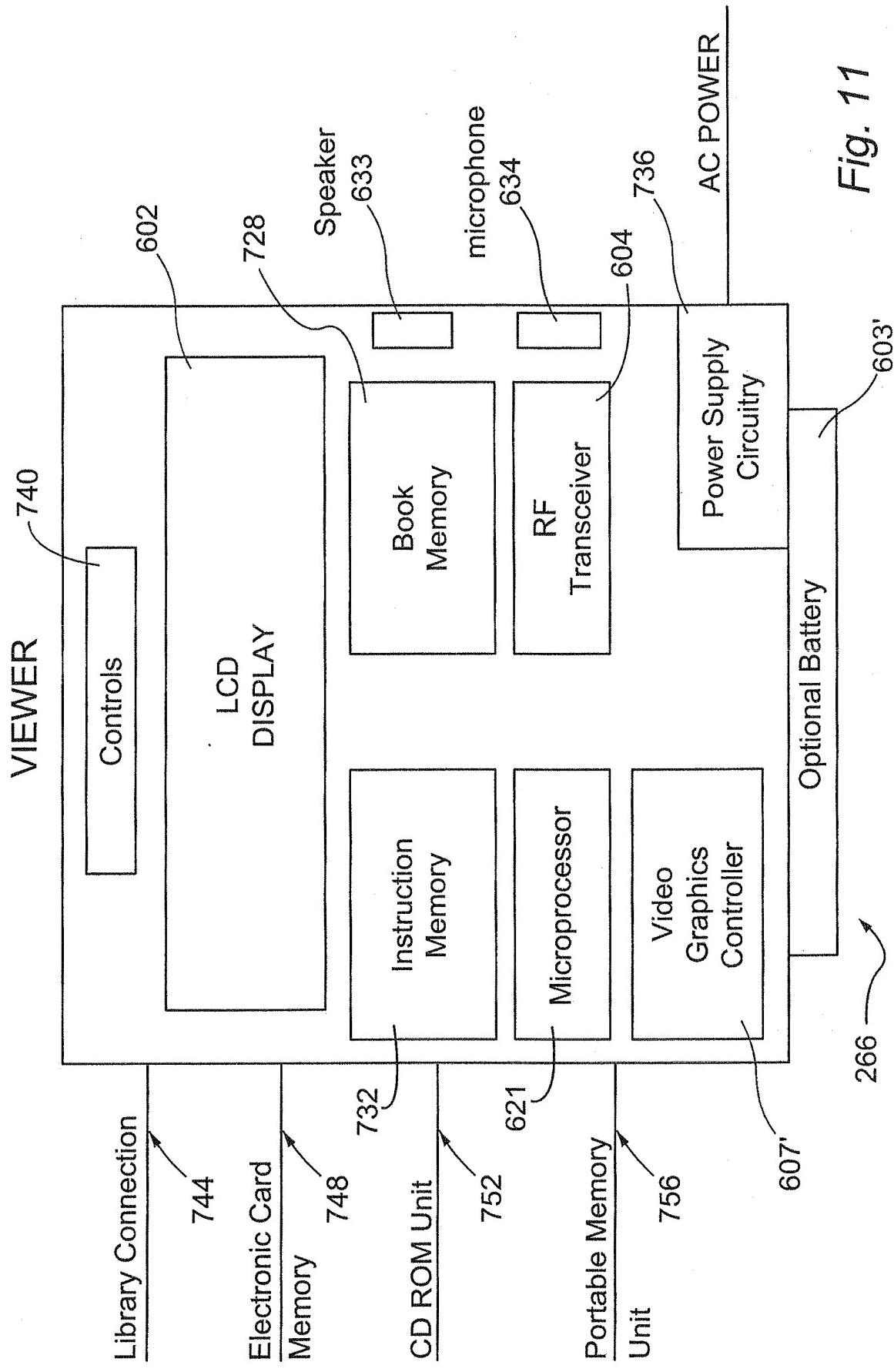


*Fig. 8*



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ical demands, the resignation of Gorbachev. To be sure, as part of Ukraine, Donbas was now on Leonid Kravchuk's conscience. Vorkuta and Kuzbas were coal-mining areas I had visited a number of times and to which I would certainly return. Their demands were harshly formulated at times, and they expected a great deal from me, but they supported me during the tough reforms.

We have a saying in Russia that when you chop wood, the chips fly. Although Khasbulatov tried his best to portray the miners as economic chips flying from the Galdar team's woodcutting, their demand did not fit the picture. These miners were not against reform. Nevertheless, they did try to defend their economic interests, insisting that such hard work should be rewarded with part of the overall profits from the industry. Unfortunately, we did not have precise mechanism to turn such enterprises as coal mines into joint stock companies. There were long, hard negotiations under way constantly.

speech converted to text

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I must say that in the spring and summer of 1992, when the work stoppage resounded throughout the country (the work stoppage on trains with coal, the stoppage on factory floors, the stoppage of transportation), my aide Yuri Skokov very courageously conducted the negotiations with the miners.

I met Yuri Skokov when I worked at the Moscow City Executive Committee. He was director of Quannum, a large defense plant, and he had run for elections to the Soviet parliament against Vitaly Korotich, a prominent writer and journalist who at the time was editor in chief of *Ogonoyok* [*Little Flame*], a pioneer of glasnost. Due to various backroom deals and party scheming (described in *Against the Grain*), Skokov won the election and proved himself to be a disciplined party protégé.

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Fig. 30b